

Soviet and Chinese Aid to North Vietnam
1965 and 1966

Introduction

1. The USSR and Communist China have greatly expanded their combined military and economic aid to North Vietnam from an estimated \$405 million in 1965 to about \$680 million in 1966. The tabulation below gives estimates of Soviet and Chinese military and economic aid in millions of US dollars.

| | 1965 | | 1966 | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Military</u> | <u>Economic</u> | <u>Military</u> | <u>Economic</u> |
| USSR* | 210 | 85 | 360 | 150 |
| Communist China | 60 | 50 | 95 | 75 |
| | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 270 | 135 | 455 | 225 |

* In addition the Eastern European countries supplied an estimated \$15 million of economic aid in 1965 and \$50 million of economic aid in 1966. Only negligible amounts of direct military aid have been supplied by the Eastern European countries.

Military Aid

2. The USSR supplied slightly less than 80 percent of total military aid in 1965 and 1966. Virtually all Soviet military deliveries have been for North Vietnam's aid defense system including surface-to-air missiles, antiaircraft guns, radar, and fighter aircraft. Chinese military deliveries were designed primarily to build up North Vietnamese ground forces and have included small arms and miscellaneous ground forces equipment.

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Economic Aid

3. The USSR supplied about 55 percent of the economic aid, including aid from Eastern Europe, in both 1965 and 1966. The focus of economic aid has shifted since 1964 from the development of heavy industry to local industry and the fulfillment of consumption, maintenance, and reconstruction needs. The USSR has supplied vehicles of all types, railroad equipment, barges, and machinery and materials, petroleum, fertilizer and food. Chinese aid has contributed to the construction of light industries, maintenance of the transport system, improvements in communications and in the irrigation systems.

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